What Is GOTS Certification for Textiles and Why Should You Care?

Words like “organic,” “natural,” and “non-toxic” are common on textile labels, but how do you know what they really mean? **GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard)** provides a trusted way to identify textiles that meet defined standards for organic fiber content, responsible processing, environmental practices, and social responsibility.

For shoppers looking for **the best bedsheets**, understanding certifications like GOTS can make it easier to choose quality textiles with greater confidence.

What Is GOTS Certification?

GOTS is a globally recognized certification for textiles made with certified organic fibers. Unlike certifications that focus only on the finished product, GOTS covers key stages of the supply chain, from fiber processing and spinning to dyeing, manufacturing, and trading.

There are two main GOTS label grades:

- **GOTS Organic:** At least 95% certified organic fibers.
- **GOTS Made with Organic:** At least 70% certified organic fibers.

The remaining materials must meet GOTS requirements and may include approved recycled or regenerated fibers.

Who Introduced GOTS?

GOTS was developed through a collaboration between the **Organic Trade Association (USA), IVN (Germany), Soil Association (UK), and Japan Organic Cotton Association (Japan)**.

The initiative began with discussions at the Intercot Conference in Düsseldorf in 2002, and GOTS was officially established in **2006** to create a common global standard for organic textiles.

What Does GOTS Cover?

GOTS certification addresses several important areas:

Organic fiber content: Products must meet defined minimum levels of certified organic fibers.

Safer chemical use: GOTS restricts or prohibits harmful substances and controls dyes, chemicals, and processing inputs.

Environmental responsibility: Certified facilities must follow requirements covering wastewater, chemical management, energy, waste, and emissions.

Social responsibility: Facilities must meet social criteria aligned with ILO principles, including protections against forced and child labor, discrimination, harassment, and unsafe working conditions.

Which Stages Does GOTS Cover?

GOTS can cover the textile supply chain from **fiber processing to finished products**, including:

1. Fiber processing
2. Spinning
3. Weaving or knitting
4. Dyeing, printing, washing, and finishing
5. Cutting and sewing/manufacturing
6. Trading of certified goods

Traceability is supported through independent audits and documentation such as **Scope Certificates** and **Transaction Certificates**, helping track certified materials through the supply chain.

Why Does GOTS Matter?

Choosing GOTS-certified textiles can help you:

- **Shop with greater confidence** by supporting verified organic claims.
- **Reduce exposure to certain harmful processing chemicals** through GOTS chemical restrictions.
- **Support responsible production** through environmental and social requirements.
- **Understand where materials come from** through supply-chain traceability.
- **Distinguish certification from vague marketing claims** such as “eco-friendly” or “natural.”

For products used close to the skin—such as **bedding, clothing, towels, and baby textiles**—these standards can be especially meaningful.

When choosing **luxury bedding**, GOTS certification can also be a useful factor alongside fabric quality, weave, comfort, and durability.

How Can You Check If a Product Is GOTS Certified?

Before purchasing, look for:

1. The GOTS label and grade
Check whether it says “Organic” or “Made with Organic.”

2. Certification details
Look for the certifier and GOTS license number.

3. Verification in the official GOTS database
Use the license number to confirm that the company is certified.

4. Clear information from the brand
If you are unsure, ask the brand or retailer for its third-party certification details.

Final Takeaway

GOTS certification gives shoppers a clearer way to evaluate organic textile claims. By combining **organic fiber requirements, chemical restrictions, environmental standards, social criteria, and supply-chain traceability**, it goes beyond simply putting the word “organic” on a label.

Whether you’re shopping for **100% cotton bedsheets**, understanding certifications such as GOTS can help you make a more informed choice.

Want to Know More?

Read the full blog here

Discover more simple guides on textile certifications, fabric care, and how to shop smarter for better bedding and home textiles.